

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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COUNTRY	USSR (Komi ASSR, Khabarovsk Kray)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Miscellaneous Information on Vorkuta, Magadan, and Kolyma Area Prison Camps 2. Gold Mining in the Maksim Gorkiy Area	DATE DISTR.	12 January 1958
		NO. PAGES	1
		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
DATE OF INFO.			
PLACE & DATE ACQ.			

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

Attachment No. 1--Information Concerning Forced Labor in the Soviet Union, 2 pages: reports on estimates of labor force population at Vorkuta between 1947 and 1955. CONFIDENTIAL

Attachment No. 2 -- Prison Camps in the Magadan Area, 2 pages: presents information on prison camps in the area from 1951 to 1956. In 1954, about 85 percent of the camps in the area were closed. Prison camps were still operating in Berelyakh and Susuman in 1956. Prisoners working in the Liskitvy /sic, possibly Listvenichnyy (N 53-12, E 112-40) mining area complained of having to be subjected to "poisonous gases" in their work. SECRET

Attachment No. 3 -- Prison Camps and Gold Mining in the Maksim Gorkiy Area, 6 pages, including 3 sketches of the area. This report states that the 12 gold mines in the Maksim Gorkiy (N 51-24, E 138-53) area produced some of the best gold in the Kolyma district. Between 1948 and 1956, there were six political prison camps in the area with a population of about 6,000 which supplied part of the labor force for the gold mines. CONFIDENTIAL

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

Attachment

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Subject: Information Concerning Forced
Labor in the Soviet Union

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Date of Report: 30 April 1957

1. [redacted] the Foodstuff Control Section of the Sanbak Laboratory [redacted] was a component of the Vorkuta camp administration. [redacted]
[redacted] the total population of the Vorkuta installation at approximately 400,000, of whom 250,000 to 300,000 were prisoners. Many of the remainder were former prisoners who were not allowed to leave the area. Most of the free personnel, whether former prisoners or not, lived in the town of Vorkuta.

2. The free population of Vorkuta was in majority Russian, though Volga Germans and Jews constituted large elements. There were some Ukrainians and Caucasians among the free population. The unfree population must be divided into those who had been condemned as ordinary criminals (about one-third of the total) and those condemned for political crimes. The criminal population of Vorkuta was in vast majority Great Russian, though there was a Jewish element condemned for economic sabotage. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the Great Russian character of the criminal element may have been the result of a Soviet tendency to house ordinary criminals on the territory of the republic where the crime was committed. The politicals were ethnically very diverse. Perhaps one-third were Ukrainians. Another third was made up of Baltic peoples, in roughly the proportion of six Lithuanians to three Estonians and one Latvian. The remaining third was composed of Poles (chiefly from the Vilna district), Belorussians, Caucasians, and Central Asians. Among politicals Great Russians were very few indeed. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] ethnic composition of the political element to the fact that the Nazi armies occupied, in the main, territories which were not inhabited by Great Russians. Of the few Russian politicals, the majority had been condemned under article 58.10 of the Soviet criminal code. This article deals with defeatism, criticism of the government, and so on.

3. Data concerning the total number of prisoners was closely held in a special section of the Central Statistical Office in Moscow, [redacted] 25X1

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] the total

Classification

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number of prisoners [] in 1949 at 20 to 25 million. This figure has been reduced somewhat since 1955. In 1953 only criminal elements were amnestied, and since most of these people were professionals, they were soon filtering back to the prisons. But only in November 1955 was there any substantial reduction in the political population. The amnesty of that month was due primarily to the inability of the weakened police apparatus to handle cases individually. By 1954 two or three floors of Ljubanka prison were empty and closed.

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4. On the other hand, it would be easy to overestimate the reduction in the numbers of forced labor. Many, if not most, of the amnestees were asked to remain in the area where they had formerly been held as prisoners. Though their lot has improved, they are not really free. Judging from the situation at Vorkuta, the Soviet government could ill afford to permit mass exodus from the camp areas. In his time there were 40 coal mines in operation at Vorkuta, and 90 percent of the miners were slaves. Mine number 40, one of the biggest, and provided with seams three to four meters thick, was only going into operation in 1953. Not only the city of Leningrad, but the whole Leningrad district is dependent on Vorkuta for coal. Even with Vorkuta in full operation the Leningrad coal situation is tight. [] it would be difficult for the Soviets to supply Leningrad with coal from the Don basin, etc. Since the Soviet government is not in a position to pay the wages and supply the housing, etc, which would attract free labor to Vorkuta, [] most of Vorkuta's population is still held in the area by force.

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Attachment

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1. The Maksim Gorki area (see Enclosure No. 1 for sketch map) was famous for its gold and was recognized as the most important gold area in the USSR. The quality of gold in this area was the same as that in the Irkutsk and Bodaibo areas, and it was claimed that the gold in the Maksim Gorki area was the best in the entire Kolyma region. Gold was mined in the Maksim Gorki area from May to the middle of September. There were twelve gold mines in the Maksim Gorki area, divided into four districts. An average of 250 kilograms of gold per month was mined during the summer months. The person responsible for gold mining in this area was Marushak Betorof Petrovich (phonetic).

2. There were approximately six concentration camps in the Maksim Gorki area with a total of approximately 6,000 prisoners interned therein, all convicted of the most serious political offenses under Soviet law. The prison camps and the types of persons interned in them were:

No. 1 Camp (see Enclosure No. 2) Ukrainian, Jewish, and German prisoners.

No. 2 Camp Polish, Russian, and prisoners from
the three Balkan countries.

No. 3 Camp Various persons connected with the
Germans, British, and Americans.
All interned until Article 58,
Section 6.

No. 4 Camp (see Enclosure No. 3)	Various nationalities, all considered most serious political offenders.
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No.	Camp	Russians.
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No. 6 Camp Former high officials of the Communist Party.

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3. Approximately 50,000 persons died in the Maksim Gorki area during the period from 1937 to 1956. All of these persons were from the working class. Their families were forced to move from the area. It was not known to what area they had been sent.
4. The population of the Maksim Gorki area was approximately 1,200. Approximately 1,200 members of the Soviet Ministry of Interior (MVD) were stationed in this area. The commander of the MVD was a lieutenant colonel. The following special officers of the MVD were stationed in the Maksim Gorki area: one major, six captains, two first lieutenants, thirty non-commissioned officers, and one captain as the chief of the prison. The following MVD personnel were connected with the concentration camps in the area: five majors and approximately forty captains, first lieutenants, and lieutenants. Also stationed in the area was a Special Search Unit of the MVD staffed with the following personnel: one captain as commander of the Unit, two first lieutenants, eighty subordinates, and thirty dogs.
5. The following equipment was used by the MVD:

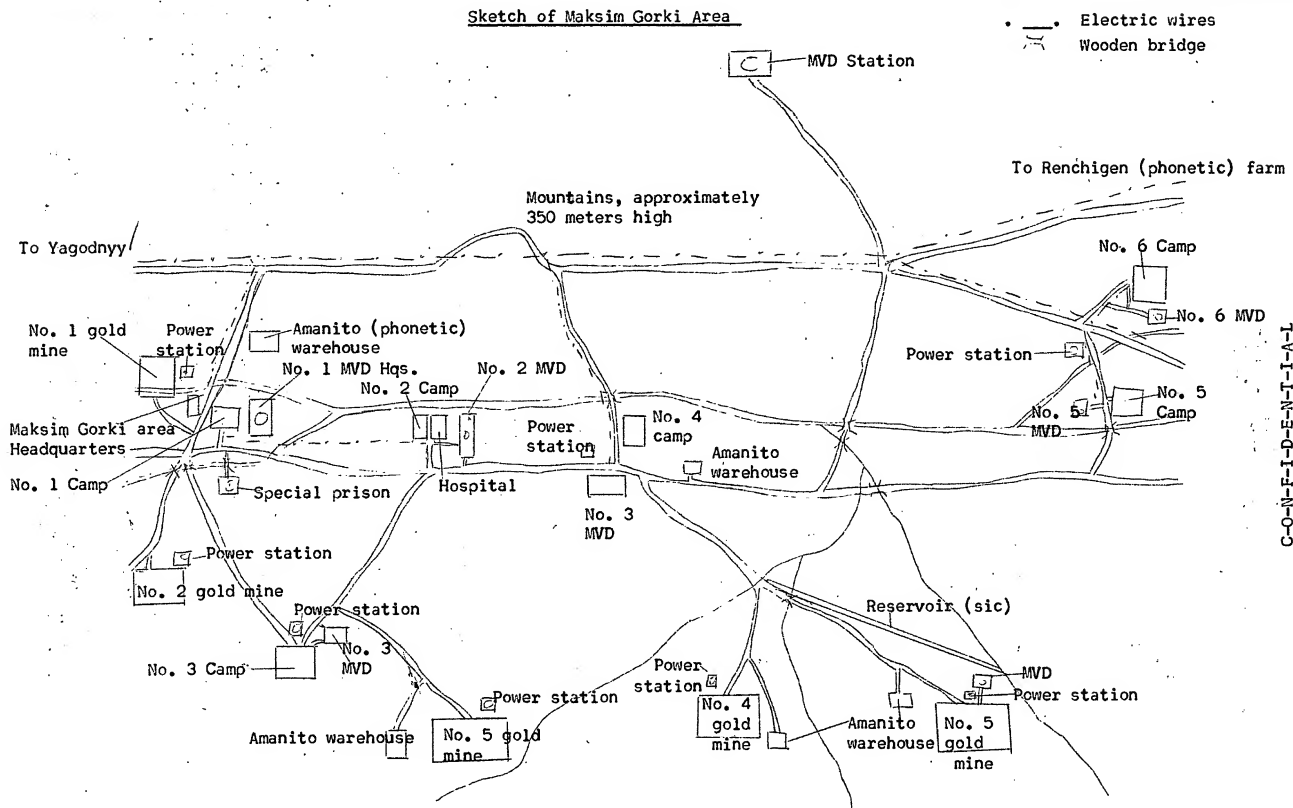
Machine guns	Approximately 12 per camp, for a total of 72.
Automatic guns, firing 25 rounds each	Approximately 2,500 to 2,600
Mauser No. 1	1,000
Mauser No. 2	2,000
Wireless, hand grenades, poison gas, and approximately 30 automobiles.	
6. Since a mass escape of prisoners in 1948, a special search plane attached to the MVD flew from Suzuran (phonetic) daily to circle the Maksim Gorki area.

Susuman

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Sketch of Maksim Gorki Area



• Electric wires
 Wooden bridge

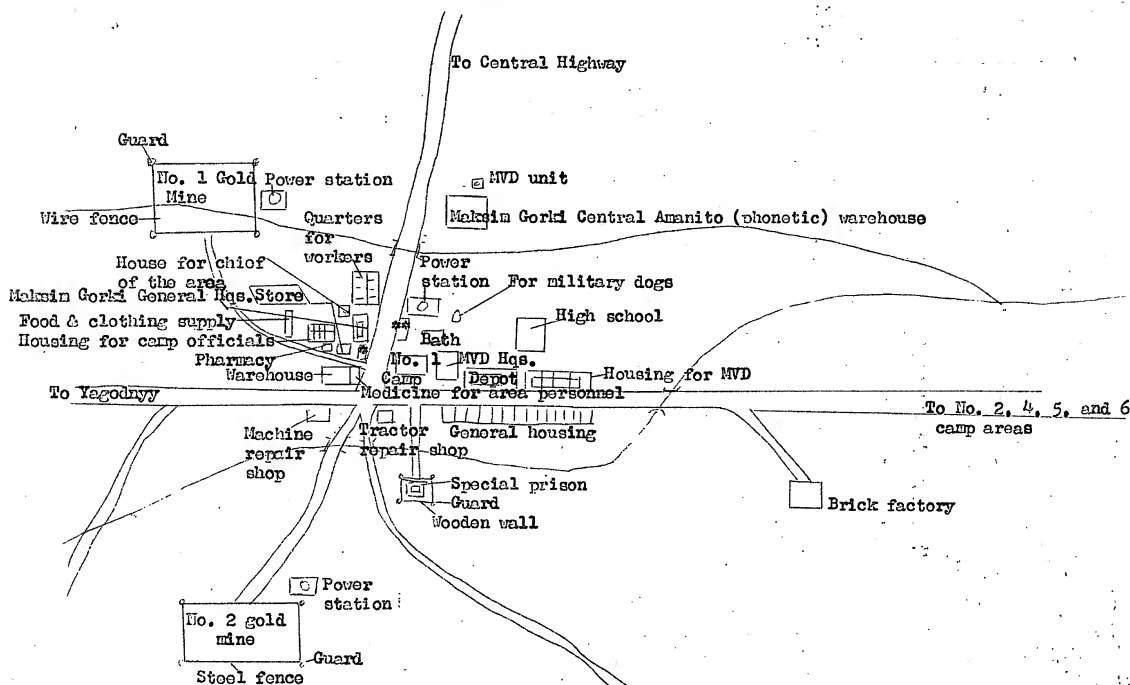
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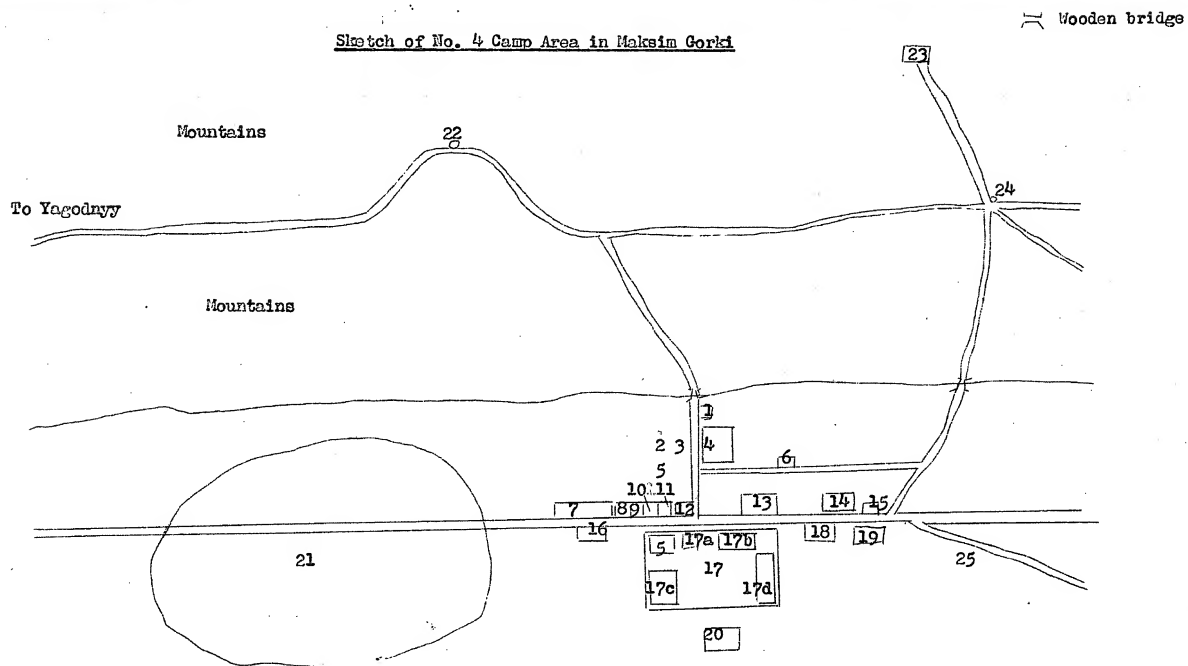
Sketch of No. 1 Camp Area in Maksim Gorki



* Camp management Hqs.

** Part of the identification for this building was blurred, but it is believed to read Party office and gold mine office.

Sketch of No. 4 Camp Area in Maksim Gorki



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Legend for Sketch of No. 4 Camp Area

1. Special detention station
2. Warehouse
3. Office for concentration camp
4. No. 4 Camp
5. Horse barns
6. Bath house
7. General housing
8. House for electricians
9. House for technician for No. 4 area
10. House for personnel in charge of No. 4 area
11. House for special officers
12. House for chief of No. 4 Camp
13. Cooperate housing for area personnel
14. Amanito (phonetic) warehouse
15. Housing for officials of Amanito warehouses
16. Store
17. MVD. Commander was a captain
- 17a. ~~Scout~~
- 17b. Mess hall
- 17c. Gun storage
- 17d. Supply depot
18. House for chief of No. 4 area (day duty)
19. House for chief of No. 4 area (night duty)
20. Military dog house
21. Special area. Open pit gold mine during summer months.
22. Guard. This was a secret post established after a mass escapes in 1948. Guards occupying this post all wore civilian clothes.
23. Special police (MVD)
24. Guard
25. General housing area

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